**Misconceptions of the Princely States**

The 70th anniversary of the Partition of British India should mark independence; however, this is sadly not the case. This agreement left Muslim-majority state, Pakistan, and Hindu-majority state, India, as two independent nations, with no clear division of their territories. Very shortly after the partition these two countries began the fight for control of the Kashmir region. This battle for control is still a great concern for these nations today, 70 years after the partition.

The partition propelled conflict between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir region that has not yet been resolved. The Maharaja at this time, Hari Singh, had ascended the Kashmir throne many years prior to the partition. He felt that after the partition, he needed to keep the two conflicting nations in check. The Maharaja decided to seek out the Indian military for help after members of the Pakistan region began to force themselves on the LOC, or line of control, of the Indian side of the region. However, this attack on the border line turned out to be orchestrated by a few Pakistani radicals who acted on their own volition. This small misunderstanding by the Maharaja is what ultimately pushed the Pakistan and Indian regions of the Kashmir state to misperceive one another until this very day.

Misinformation regarding the nuclear arms race beginning in the early 1970’s kick started even more hostility between the Pakistani and Indian governments. India conducted their first ever successful nuclear weapon test in 1974. It is known that Pakistan began to develop nuclear arms around the very same time. Twenty-four years later, India began to launch test missiles that were presumably to be used in conjunction with their nuclear weapons. Pakistan shortly thereafter releases their test missiles, seemingly in an effort to keep up with the status of India’s nuclear weapons. In this situation, Pakistan is forced to make assumptions based on the incomplete information that they have to work with. Pakistan is uncertain of India’s motives in assembling the nuclear weapons, so they feel as though they need to do so also in order to defend themselves. The uncertainty escalated to the point of war between India and Pakistan; luckily, the fear of a full scale or nuclear war kept the conflict somewhat in check.

The uncertainty generated by the misunderstandings between the two nations is what initially began the conflicts, and is what causes the two nations to misunderstand each other’s intentions to this very day. This situation can be broken down to a case of two parties who had one small confusion about one another. These two nations cannot seem to make any lasting agreements because of their misperceptions and misinterpretations of each other going back to the year 1947. However, these nations may begin to make progress on overcoming their overarching obstacles, if they just simply think back to the source of the initial misunderstanding and misinformation exchanged between them. Trust must begin to build between the members of the nations before any constructive change occurs.